

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 NSC-05 INR-07
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4426
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7958

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SO
SUBJ: SOMALI OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON AID FROM ITAN, ARABS,
USSR AND US

REF: TEHRAN 7895

1. COL. AHMAD MOHAMMAD FARAH, IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOMALIA'S RULING REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY, GAVE INTERVIEW SEPT 6 WHICH APPEARED IN DAILY RASTAKHIZ SEPT 7. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING MADE STOPOVER HERE AND COMMENTED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS.

2. ON IRAN: SOMALIA ASKED IRAN FOR MEDICINES AND RECEIVED THEM, FOR WHICH IT IS GRATEFUL. IRAN-SOMALIA RELATIONS ARE EXPANDING AND SOMALIS HEARTILY THANK PEOPLE OF IRAN AND THE SHAHANSHAH FOR HUMANITARIAN AID. IRAN HAS POLITICAAL WEIGHT IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND ITS LEADER POSSESSES INSIGHT INTO MANY WORLD ISSUES.

3. ARABS: MOST ARAB COUNTRIES ARE ASSISTING SOMALIA WITH FOOD STUFFS AND MEDICINES, NOT ARMS. LIBYA'S
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POLICIES ARE NEITHER UNDERSTANDABLE NOR PREDICTABLE. ADEN REGIME, ALONG WITH CUBA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAS SENT TROOPS TO ETHIOPIA.

4. USSR: "SOVIET EXPERTS HAD A PURPOSE TO SERVE AS LONG AS SOVIET UNION GAVE US ARMS AND EQUIPMENT. IF MOSCOW CONTINUES ITS ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST US, THE

PRESENCE OF ITS EXPERTS IN SOMALIA WILL BECOME UNNECESSARY AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE". THE SOVIETS, FARAH ADDED, FULLY SUPPORT ETHIOPIA AGAINST SOMALIA LIBERATION FRONT IN OGADEN, WHEREAS SOMALIS HAD EXPECTED SOVIETS TO MEDIATE AS A COMMON FRIEND TO BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

5. US: "WE REQUESTED ARMS AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE US; THEY DECLINED. THEN HOW CAN ONE MOVE CLOSER TO THEM? IF WE WERE CLOSE TO THE SOVIET UNION, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSISTANCE IN VARIOUS FIELDS."

6. FINALLY, FARAH REFERRED APPROVINGLY TO MADAGASCAR MEDIATING MISSION CURRENTLY SHUTTling BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND HIS COUNTRY. END UNCLASSIFIED

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7. FARAH APPEARS TO BE THE SPECIAL EMISSARY WHO SPOKE WITH THE SHAH (REFTEL). HE OBVIOUSLY MUST BE DISAPPOINTED NOT TO HAVE RECEIVED THE HEAVIER ARMS ASSISTANCE HE REQUESTED, THOUGH TENOR OF HIS REMARKS IS INTENDED NOT TO OFFEND THE SHAH AND TO KEEP DOORS OPEN.
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